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PENNSYLVANIA FREEDMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

This Association has been in existence, though originally under as somewhat different name and with a more circumscribed field of action, for the space of two years. It had its origin in a public meeting held in this city, in National Hall, on the 5th of March, 1862. That meeting was called in response to appeals made to the people of the North by Commodore Dupont, General Sherman, and others, in behalf of the 10,000 liberated blacks of South Carolina. The destitution of these people, moral and physical, was strongly set forth by eminent speakers and a committee appointed to devise and execute measures for their relief. Assuming the name of the "Port Royal Relief Committee," the gentlemen thus appointed proceeded to perform the duties assigned them. They raised money, and purchased and forwarded food and clothing sufficient to meet the immediate demands of the people. This done, and there being no further pressing need of physical assistance, they next turned their attention to the necessity of industrial organization, and the means needed for the people's moral and intellectual improvement. They therefore selected and sent into the field superintendents of labor and well qualified school teachers. As the people, under these influences, advanced in improvement, and began to earn wages sufficient and more than sufficient for their maintenance, the Committee established a store among them, to protect them, by the fair rates at which commodities were to be sold, from the extortions of army sutlers and other traders. This store was, as it is still, supported by a capital set apart for the purpose, and conducted by a gentleman well qualified for the duty.

The success of each and all of these measures has been complete. The food and clothing kept the more destitute from perishing, while, by awakening in the breasts of all a lively

sense of gratitude, it made subsequent effort in their behalf more effective. The superintendents gave direction to the people's industry, forming among them habits of self-reliance, and making their labor remunerative to themselves and of inestimable value to the country. The teachers gathered the children and unemployed adults into schools, instructing them in the rudiments of elementary learning, and inculcating upon them lessons of morality, religion, and social order.

In these measures the Philadelphia Committee acted in concert with similar associations in Boston and New York. The enterprise thus conducted by these three bodies has been in all respects an absolute success. No alms are now dispensed on those islands by this or any other association. The freed blacks there, now 15,000 in number, are a self-supporting, wealth-producing people. They are orderly in their behaviour, and are rapidly rising in the scale of intelligence. The able-bodied are serving their country as soldiers, while the less robust are making themselves equally useful in cultivating the fields. Some of the younger ones, who two years ago came into the schools in a condition of absolute ignorance, are now competent to take the part of assistant teachers. The "Philadelphia store," located in the island of St. Helena, has sold in the last eighteen months goods to the amount of \$30,000. This sum, realized from the sales of a single neighborhood, indicates the prosperity of the people, while, at the same time, it suggests the advantages yet to be derived by the North from commercial intercourse with them. The savings of the store to purchasers, according to the estimate of the gentleman in charge, have been \$6000 on the sales reported. This sum has been that much added to the people's ability to buy land; for it ought to be known that the blacks at Port Royal are rapidly becoming proprietors of the soil. The Government has granted them pre-emption rights at prices not beyond their reach, and the more thrifty among them are availing themselves of the opportunity thus afforded of becoming planters on their own account.

While the Committee were thus engaged on the Sea Islands, the advance of our arms was opening new fields for similar effort in other parts of the country. In the south-west especially, where the number of liberated blacks had reached a figure somewhere

between one and two hundred thousand, the demand for aid became especially pressing. To meet this demand, the Port Royal Relief Committee determined to enlarge their field of action. Changing their name to that of the Pennsylvania Freedmen's Relief Association, they called a public meeting, and set forth to a crowded audience the new and more enlarged views of the question. At this meeting, held in Concert Hall on the 3d of November, and presided over by Bishop Potter, strong pictures were presented of the destitution of the freed people, and earnest appeals made in their behalf. To these appeals the audience responded, by a resolution unanimously adopted, declaring that the people of the North owed it alike to Humanity and to the Government, to aid these enfranchised people to the full extent of their necessities, in the trials of their transition state. They also declared, by a vote equally unanimous, that a sum of not less than \$100,000 should be raised by the people of the State to carry this resolve into execution. At a later and still larger meeting—held in the Academy of Music on the 16th of February—Bishop Simpson presiding, similar declarations were made, with equal unanimity, and with added emphasis.

While the Association were thus diffusing information and calling out the sentiment of the people, they were at the same time busy raising funds and disbursing them for the purposes for which they were intended. They have collected since the date of their meeting on the 3d of November, \$36,491.08. They have purchased and sent to different parts of the South, blankets, shoes, hospital stores, and clothing for women and children, to the amount of \$18,500. These supplies for physical wants they are preparing to follow up, as in the case of Port Royal, with more enduring benefactions. In addition to the corps of able teachers and assistants, nine in number, which they are now maintaining in South Carolina, they are selecting and commissioning for new places of labor others equally well qualified. In order to concentrate their efforts and guard against the evils of too wide a field, the Association have concluded to confine their operations in the south-west to Middle Tennessee and parts adjacent, especially the northern parts of Alabama and Georgia. They have ap-

pointed a General Superintendent, whose business it will be—making Nashville or some point near that city his centre—to organize schools, and locate in charge of them, such teachers as may be sent out for that purpose.

By these and such like means this Association, acting as heretofore in conjunction with other bodies of similar character, propose to do for all the Southern States what has already been done with so much success for a portion of South Carolina. If the negroes of the Sea Islands, the lowest in the land in point of intellectual and physical condition, can, in a brief space of time, be raised into a self-sustaining, law-abiding and comparatively well instructed people, the same thing at least can be done for the remaining blacks of the South, most of whom are of a much more promising character.

The Penna. Freedmen's Relief Association have raised since their organization in March 1862, \$10,000 worth of clothing and other needful articles—all of which have been distributed—and \$48,459.69 in money. These supplies of clothes, &c., and this amount of money have been collected without any expense of commission or salary. And of the entire sum raised, with the exception of the balance now in the treasury, and a small amount expended in means necessary to the Association's existence, every dollar has gone direct to the object for which it was contributed.

This account of its history and operations the Association respectfully submits to the public, with an earnest request to all loyal and humane people for their co-operation and support. Contributions to its funds should be sent to E. W. Clark, Treasurer, 35 south 3d street; or, if more convenient, they may be left at the rooms of the Association, to be forwarded to that gentleman, by whom they will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged.

STEPHEN COLWELL,
President.

ELLIS YARNALL,
Recording Sec'y. }
J. M. MCKIM,
Corresponding Sec'y. }

B. P. HUNT,
Vice President.

March 1st, 1864.

TESTIMONY OF THE CLERGY.

At a meeting of clergymen without respect to denomination, held in Philadelphia on the 25th of February, 1864, the following resolutions, prepared by a special Committee, were unanimously adopted, and having been submitted to others for their consideration, received the signatures appended:

Resolved, That the work of the "Pennsylvania Freedmen's Relief Association" is one that commands our heartiest approval.

Resolved, That the Association itself, concerned as it is with interests of the first moment to us as Christian citizens, and composed of gentlemen of unquestioned standing in the community, is entitled to our confidence and esteem.

Resolved, That we commend them and their cause to churches of every name throughout the city and State.

Alonzo Potter
Wm. Bacon Stevens
Henry J. Morton
Richard Newton
George Leeds
E. A. Washburn
John S. Stone
John A. Vaughan
Charles D. Cooper
M. A. De Wolfe Howe
J. Gordon Maxwell
W. W. Spear
Edward Lounsherry
Benjamin Watson
Samuel E. Appleton
Dr. R. Goodwin
William Suddards
G. Emlen Hare
William H. Hare
J. W. Robins
Kingston Goddard
George Bringhurst
Robert J. Parvin
William Rudder
Richard A. Carden
C. A. L. Richards
George A. Strong
Robert C. Matlack
D. S. Miller

J. Wheaton Smith
R. Jeffery
D. C. Eddy
William Catheart
J. H. Peters
J. B. Simmons
Joseph H. Kennard
J. Hyatt Smith
Wm. D. Siegfried
James Cooper
W. H. Marsh
J. A. McKean
Thomas P. Coulston
K. A. Fleischmann
Joseph Perry
William S. Hall
J. E. Cheshire
A. H. Danforth
John H. Castle
A. J. Hay
Wm. H. Furness
Richard Eddy
A. B. Atkins
Edward A. Foggo
R. G. Chase
D. Otis Kellogg, Jr.
Wilbur F. Paddock
Daniel Washburn
J. A. Childs

Albert Barnes	A. Atwood
Thomas Brainerd	F. Moore
Frank L. Robbins	S. W. Thomas
Daniel March	C. Hill
William T. Catta	I. H. Alday
George F. Wiswell	H. F. Hurn
Thos. Shepherd	D. W. Bartine
John W. Mears	Joseph Castle
B. B. Hotchkiss	A. Rittenhouse
J. G. Butler	B. F. Price
E. B. Bruen	T. C. Murphy
E. E. Adams	F. Hodgson
P. C. Headley	A. Manship
J. S. Willis	W. C. Best
Robert Adair	W. Major
John McLeod	A. Longacre
J. Y. Mitchell	M. D. Kurtz
Wm. T. Eva	David Steel
Jonathan Edwards	Phillips Brooks
George Junkin	James D. W. Peny
Daniel Gaston	Treadwell Walden
M. C. Sutphen	Thomas C. Yarnall
Wm. McElwee	Alexander Shiras
W. R. Work	Harman L. Duhring
Geo. Morton	Charles Higbee
Wm. J. Gibson	Gustavus M. Murray
Wm. Blackwood	Joseph N. Mulford
James H. Baird	Samuel Durborrow
M. B. Grier	John Long
Joseph F. Cooper	William J. Alston
Francis Church	Joseph R. Moore
W. W. Barr	William T. Sabine
James Price	W. W. Taylor
J. B. Dales	F. W. Graus
J. W. J. Wylie	Jeremiah Miller
Y. P. Stevenson	R. A. Mallory
Samuel O. Wylie	George Van Deurs
F. Hendricks	H. Augustus Smith
A. Culver	Charles Smith
S. W. Crittenden	Lewellyn Pratt

RECEIPTS BY THE TREASURER
OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA FREEDMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION,
from Nov. 6th, 1863, until March 1st, 1864.

Jacob F. Jones.....	\$500	A. Campbell.....	100
Mrs. J. Sill.....	106	Joseph H. Trotter.....	50
Thomas Ridgway.....	100	Merrick & Son.....	1000
Through Rev. Mr. Brooks.....	100	W. Sellers & Co.....	1000
Israel Morris.....	200	Sidney Paul.....	50
Colonel Crosman.....	10	Richard Richardson.....	50
Thomas A. Biddle.....	1000	John T. Lewis.....	50
Clement Biddle.....	300	Saunders Lewis.....	100
Jay Cooke & Co.....	1000	Cash, T. H. P.....	250
James A. Wright.....	1000	C. S. Orum.....	25
E. W. Clark & Co.....	1000	Sundry small contributions,	92 50
Henry Cope.....	1000	McAllister & Bro.....	25
Alfred Cope	1000	Rev. Mr. Brooks.....	50
Cope Brothers	1000	W. D. Bell.....	50
W. R.....	500	Mrs. W. R. Palmer.....	100
Charles Spencer.....	250	Jos. D. Brown.....	100
Mrs. E. W. Clark.....	100	Mary D. Brown.....	100
Mary W. Clark.....	100	B. C.....	100
J. L. K.....	25	Henry C. Davis.....	25
Joseph Perot.....	20	Tredick, Stokes & Co.....	500
Furness, Brinley & Co.....	100	Dillwyn Parrish.....	50
Cash.....	100	Isaac Barton.....	50
Mrs. S. H. Clapp.....	20	S. Morris Waln.....	1000
F. H. Clark.....	100	Benjamin Sharp.....	25
B. H. Bartol.....	50	T. C. Henry & Co.....	50
A. McIntyre.....	50	Lowber & Ralston.....	50
C. T. Yerkes.....	50	E. J., from Pleasantdale.....	5
A. Whitney & Sons.....	1000	A. A. Konigmacher.....	100
A. Barker.....	500	R. B. Cabeen.....	100
Work, McCouch & Co.....	100	Samuel C. Morton.....	100
A. H. Howell.....	100	Morris, Wheeler & Co.....	250
Jos. F. Page.....	100	Brown, Hill & Co	100
Thomas B. Wattson.....	100	Henry B. Benners	50
Thomas Kimber	100	Cash.....	25
J. Emory Stone.....	50	C. Sherman & Son.....	20
E. T. Shaw.....	100	Dr. May	10
John P. Crozer.....	1000	J. B. Moorhead.....	50
Stephen P. Morris.....	100	J. W. Heins.....	5
Charles W. Wharton.....	50	Randolph & Jenks.....	200
Jessup & Moore.....	500	Atherton Blight.....	500
Theo. Bliss.....	200	John W. Field.....	50
S. S. White.....	500	Jos. B. Townsend.....	50
Cash.....	500	J. T. Gause.....	300
Yarnall & Trimble.....	250	Samuel Harlan, Jr	300
A. Manderson.....	50	John T. Gilpin.....	20
McKean, Borie & Co.....	1000	R. & W. C. Biddle & Co.....	300
M. L. Dawson.....	250	J. Edward Farnum.....	100
M. C. Cope.....	500	Benjamin Homer.....	50
Frothingham & Wells.....	50	J. E. Caldwell & Co.....	100
John Gibson, Son & Co.....	200	Smith & Randolph.....	75

Cash.....	50	Geo. D. Parrish & Co.....	500
W. D. Cope.....	100	Educational	100
Cash.....	25	S. L.....	100
Thomas P. Stotesbury.....	50	F. R. Legee.....	50
Edward S. Buckley.....	100	Samuel Bettle.....	50
M. & A.....	100	Robert L. Johnson.....	100
W. B. C.....	100	T. J. Megear.....	100
A. H. C.....	100	C. D. Cleveland.....	25
Field & Keehmele.....	100	E. S. G.....	50
James Graham & Co.....	100	Richard Sharp.....	50
John A. Brown.....	500	Bethany Mission for Colored Children.....	5
W. H. Ashhurst.....	100	R. N. Rathbun.....	250
R. H. Downing.....	50	George F. Tyler.....	250
A. M. Jones.....	25	L. Audenried & Co.....	250
McCallum & Co.....	100	Davis Pearson.....	100
William McCallum.....	100	Joseph Lea.....	25
Miss Mifflin.....	5	Church of the Crucifixion, per Rev. J. R. Moore.....	15
Miss E. Mifflin.....	5	A. W. R.....	30
Mary Richards.....	10	John Skirving.....	10
Horstman & Sons.....	100	C. D. Cooper.....	20
Cash.....	20	Daniel Neall.....	300
C. & H. Borie.....	100	Collection Presbyterian and United Pres. Churches, Gilgal, Ind Co., Pa.....	87 50
Bowen & Fox.....	50	Billings, Roop & Co	50
Joshua W. Woolston.....	50	James S. Cox.....	100
R. D. W.....	50	Joseph Mendenhall.....	10
W. H. Trotter	200	Moravian Ch., Nazareth, Pa.	17
Waln, Leaming & Co.....	50	Rev. Geo. Morris.....	40
Henry J. Williams.....	250	John S. Haines.....	100
S. R. Shipley.....	25	John Ashurst.....	100
Collected by J. M. McKim...	57	T. Kimber, Jr.....	125
Reuben Winslow.....	10	Thos. Kimber, Jr., (second contribution).....	125
Limerick Bridge.....	5	A Member of Christ Church, Brownsville, Pa., per Rev. J. F. Ohl.....	10
Israel W. Morris.....	250	Miss Mary Boyd.....	20
Alex. Whilldin & Sons.....	100	S. Flanagan.....	200
Reuben Winslow.....	50	A. G. Cattell & Co.....	200
J. H. Yarnall and others....	9 50	E. A. Souder & Co.....	100
Samuel Parry.....	100	Frederick Brown.....	50
J. S. Lovering, Jr.....	50	H. G.....	5
M. W. Baldwin & Co.....	1000	P. P. Randolph.....	50
Thomas Mott.....	500	Mary D. Brown, Trustee.....	500
Edwd. N. Wright.....	100	Sharp, Weiss & Co.....	100
Henry Winsor.....	500	B. P. Hunt.....	100
Cash from sundry persons...	23	Miss N. B. Peters.....	50
S. Colwell.....	100	Mrs. S. Peters.....	50
Through Rev. Mr. Brooks...	25	J. F. G.....	25
Henry C. Lea.....	50	Mrs. Bowie.....	100
A. B. C.....	20	Mrs. L. R. Ashurst.....	50
Lindley Smyth.....	300	Through Rev. Mr. Brooks....	40
E. S. Whelen.....	100	For the Cherokee Indians— sundry contributions.....	155
Mrs. W. Bucknell.....	100		
Abigail Goodwin.....	5		
Benjamin Bullock.....	50		
Rev. J. Gordon Maxwell....	5		
M. H.....	5		
Thomas Garrett.....	50		
Farnham, Kirkham & Co....	250		
C. L. C.....	5		
A. G. C.....	25		
Redwood Warner.....	100		
Henry Blackaller.....	5		
			36,491 00

